



Garry Makar

Wes Craig (17) lays a shoulder into this Dino. The Bears won Saturday's game 6-3.

"They were awesome — even better than last year." — Sid Cranston

by Ajay Bhardwaj

"Tastes great!" "Less filling!" "Tastes great!" "Less filling!" The chants went back and forth. "Dinos suck!", a poster said. All over Varsity arena fans had green and gold on; some on their faces, others just wore them. 'Cheer for Beer' was a huge success as more than 2700 spectators filled the arena to capacity.

"When the national anthem was going everyone had goose bumps," said winger Doug McCarthy. "The crowd was great," said center Dan Wiebe, "it was a huge factor." "They were awesome — better than last year," said captain Sid Cranston.

The visiting Calgary Dinosaurs felt the brunt of not only the U of A Golden Bears, but also that of their supporters. The fans cheered everything the Bears did and every mistake the red menace made. "Seive, seive, seive!" they cried when Calgary goalie Peter Fry couldn't make a save. "Hearin' some of the guys from last year, we knew it was a big game," said rookie Marty Yewchuk.

"They (the fans) didn't bother us as much as they they helped the Bears," said Calgary assistant Drew Remenda. "But sometimes your focus as a player is thrown off. You can't let the fans designate the way you play."

The Bears felt that the crowd gave them a big edge. The edge came not only emotionally but also in a more tangible sense. "Once the game got going it gave us a couple of goals," McCarthy said. Cranston agreed. "That constant enthusiasm carries over to the bench. Nothing was going to stop us tonight."

The large crowd was a rare example of the great fan support. The Bears usually average about 20% of the crowd they got on Saturday. "You knew it was there because we don't get it all the time," said Yewchuk. Added McCarthy, somewhat pessimistically, "I hope it was for the hockey and not the beer." But Cranston stuck to the optimistic side of the discussion. "They love hockey and they were just here to cheer us on," he said.

The hockey Bears are hoping that their fans' enthusiasm will carry over to the playoffs. "That'd be a good boost," said McCarthy. "the games against Saskatchewan are just as good."

But before the green and gold start thinking about the playoffs, they have to prepare for games against the Regina Cougars and the Manitoba Bisons. However, if 'every (Golden Bears' player) had goose bumps prior to the face off against the Dinosaurs, how will they feel prior to Face Off '89 when four times as many fans show up at Northlands Coliseum?

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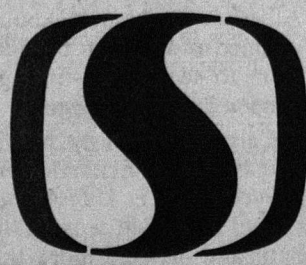
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